

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (New): A ceramic heater comprising a ceramic substrate and a heating element disposed internally or on a surface of the ceramic substrate,  
wherein said surface is controlled to a flatness of 1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  over a measurement area which ranges until a point 10 mm distant from the diametric end of the surface.

Claim 11 (New): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10,  
wherein said surface is controlled to a flatness of 1 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  over a measurement area which ranges until a point 10 mm distant from the diametric end of the surface.

Claim 12 (New): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10,  
wherein said ceramic substrate comprises a nitride ceramic.

Claim 13 (New): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10,  
wherein said ceramic substrate comprises a sintering aid.

Claim 14 (New): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10,  
wherein said ceramic substrate comprises at least one of an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, and a rare earth metal.

Claim 15 (New): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10,  
wherein said ceramic substrate comprises at least one of Li, Na, Ca, Rb and Y.